

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2015

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Blues Traveler to kickoff 'Anniston's Biggest Weekend'

What could be better than the Sunny King Criterium, Noble Street Festival, Iron Mountain Challenge, and the Fort McClellan Road Race?

Well, nothing.

But when you have the Grammy-award winning band "Blues Traveler" kicking off Anniston's Biggest Weekend, things can only get better.

The fourth year of the Model City Music Festival kicks off at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 27 at Zinn Park, located in historic downtown Anniston.

Harp master and venerable road dog John Popper, along with his cadre of jam band veterans, will jumpstart a three-day bonanza of infectious music, exciting cycling events, delicious food, and fun downtown activities.

After scoring a Grammy and Billboard Top Ten breakthrough hit with the harmonica-laced track "Run-Around," Blues Traveler defined pop music in the mid-90s and continues to release albums that move in between genres of blues rock, Southern rock, psychedelic rock, folk rock, and soul.

"Bringing Blues Traveler to kick off the fourth year of the Model City Music Fest is huge for us and the City of Anniston," said Larry May, owner of the CD Cellar in historic downtown Anniston, and one of the event's organizers.

"Robert Jackson and I are excited about the growth of the show and the continued involvement from the community. What began as a small show has grown in both size and scope and we couldn't be more pleased."

Noble Street Festival

Each spring Anniston's Noble Street Festival makes its mark in the community by drawing cyclists from around the world, and pulling large crowds of spectators into historic downtown Anniston.

This year's festival will start on Saturday, March 28 with the Sunny King Criterium. Back-to-back races are expected well into the evening when Pro Men and Pro Women take the course.

Local restaurants will provide á la carte menus for the much-anticipated "Taste on Noble" event that welcomes outdoor dining while enjoying fun downtown activities, live music, arts & crafts, and of course—the fast-paced bike races.

The Downtown Market

While at the Noble Street Festival, remember to start fresh in Anniston at The Downtown Market where locally-grown fresh crops will be readily available for cyclists, spectators, visitors, residents, families and friends.

The market will be open from 7 a.m. to noon on Saturday, March 28, on the top parking deck of Wilmer Avenue and Eighth Street for the festival.

The market will remain open for 28 Saturdays through Oct. 31 behind Anniston City Hall, starting Saturday, April 4.

22nd Annual Iron Mountain Challenge

Previously known as the Woodland-Calhoun Century Challenge, the 22nd annual Iron Mountain Challenge will take place at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 28.

This non-competitive bike ride starts at the Anniston Aquatics & Fitness Center, located at 130 Summerall Gate Road on McClellan. Registration is available online, or on the day of the race at 6:30 a.m. on March 28 at the race site. For more information, visit www.ironmountainchallenge.com.

Fort McClellan Road Race

Rounding out the weekend, is the Fort McClellan Road Race that will be held on Sunday, March 29 at Bains Gap Road.

For more information about all of our cycling events during Anniston's Biggest Weekend, visit www.annistoncycling.com. For more information about The Downtown Market call (256) 624-7172, email marketmanagerafm@yahoo.com, or visit www.annistonmarket.com.

The City of Anniston

Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in northeast Alabama, Anniston sits as the county seat for Calhoun County and a regional hub for legal, medical, and banking services. Home to the bronze-level mountain bike ride center of Coldwater Mountain, Anniston offers a wide range of recreational options such as biking the Chief Ladiga Trail or visiting the Anniston Museum of Natural History. For more information about the City of Anniston, visit anniston.al.gov.